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IN THE CLAIMS**1. – 17. (canceled)**

18. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus, for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, comprising:

- (a) a provisional-region detection section; and
- (b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said provisional-region detection section being for sampling, from parallel data according to a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission system, a part of the parallel data in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part of the parallel data being identified as provisional region data, and for serializing and outputting the provisional region data ~~in serial form~~ to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said frame synchronous pattern detecting section, communicatively connected with said provisional-region detection section, for detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from the inputted provisional region data.

19. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, comprising:

- (a) a provisional-region detection section; and
- (b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

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said provisional-region detection section being for sampling, from given data, a part of parallel data in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part of the parallel data being identified as provisional region data, and for serializing and outputting the provisional region data ~~in serial form~~ to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section,

said frame synchronous pattern detecting section, communicatively connected with said provisional-region detection section, for detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from the inputted provisional region data.

20. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection method, for detecting an actual frame synchronous pattern which is a part of a frame synchronous pattern and is essential to execute frame synchronizing, said method comprising the steps of:

sampling, from given parallel data, a part in which said actual frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part from the given parallel data being identified as provisional region data; and

detecting said actual frame synchronous pattern from said sampled provisional region data converted into serial form.

21. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus comprising:

(a) a provisional-region detection section for sampling, from parallel data according to a synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission system, a part of the parallel data in which an object frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part of the parallel data being identified as provisional region data; and

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(b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section for detecting, from said provisional region data, the object frame synchronous pattern,
said provisional region data being serialized and output ~~in serial form~~ from said provisional-region detection section to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section.

22. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection apparatus comprising:

(a) a provisional-region detection section for sampling, from given data, a part of parallel data in which an object frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part of the parallel data being identified as provisional region data; and

(b) a frame synchronous pattern detecting section for detecting, from said provisional region data, the object frame synchronous pattern,
said provisional region data being serialized and output ~~in serial form~~ from said provisional-region detection section to said frame synchronous pattern detecting section.

23. (currently amended) A frame synchronous pattern detection method comprising the steps of:

sampling, from given parallel data, a part in which an object frame synchronous pattern is presumably included, said part from the given parallel data being identified as provisional region data; and

detecting the object frame synchronous pattern using said sampled provisional region data converted into serial form.

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